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EXCLUSIVE

INSIDE LABOR

FBI Investigated Oswald  
As Possible Soviet Spy in U.S.

By Victor Riesel

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Washington, D.C.: -- During the 17 months preceding the assassination of John Kennedy, the FBI ran an espionage investigation into the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Bureau had ample reason to believe the alleged killer was an agent of the Soviet Union.

But nothing in that probe revealed that Oswald had violent tendencies or was capable of the murder with which he was charged.

These are some of the many reasons Oswald's name did not enter into the security discussions which are held between the FBI and Secret Service liaison men. Such talks are held daily here and in every city in which both branches have headquarters.

Contrary to gossip in some quarters, both agencies work as closely together as springs in a tiny watch. Secret Service chief, James J. Rowley, is a former FBI agent. Currently he is a member of the lecture staff of the FBI's National Academy.

During the intricate planning of security for the late President's trip, long lists of potentially dangerous subversives, cranks, "nuts and kooks" throughout the U.S. were culled, located and neutralized.

As a potential spy, however, Oswald fell into an entirely different security category. It is traditional in intelligence work for such men to avoid overt acts and try to blend facelessly into the crowd. Or sometimes, by indirection and disinformation they act in a manner designed to make the authorities conclude: "He would not be doing that, if he actually were in foreign intelligence."

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